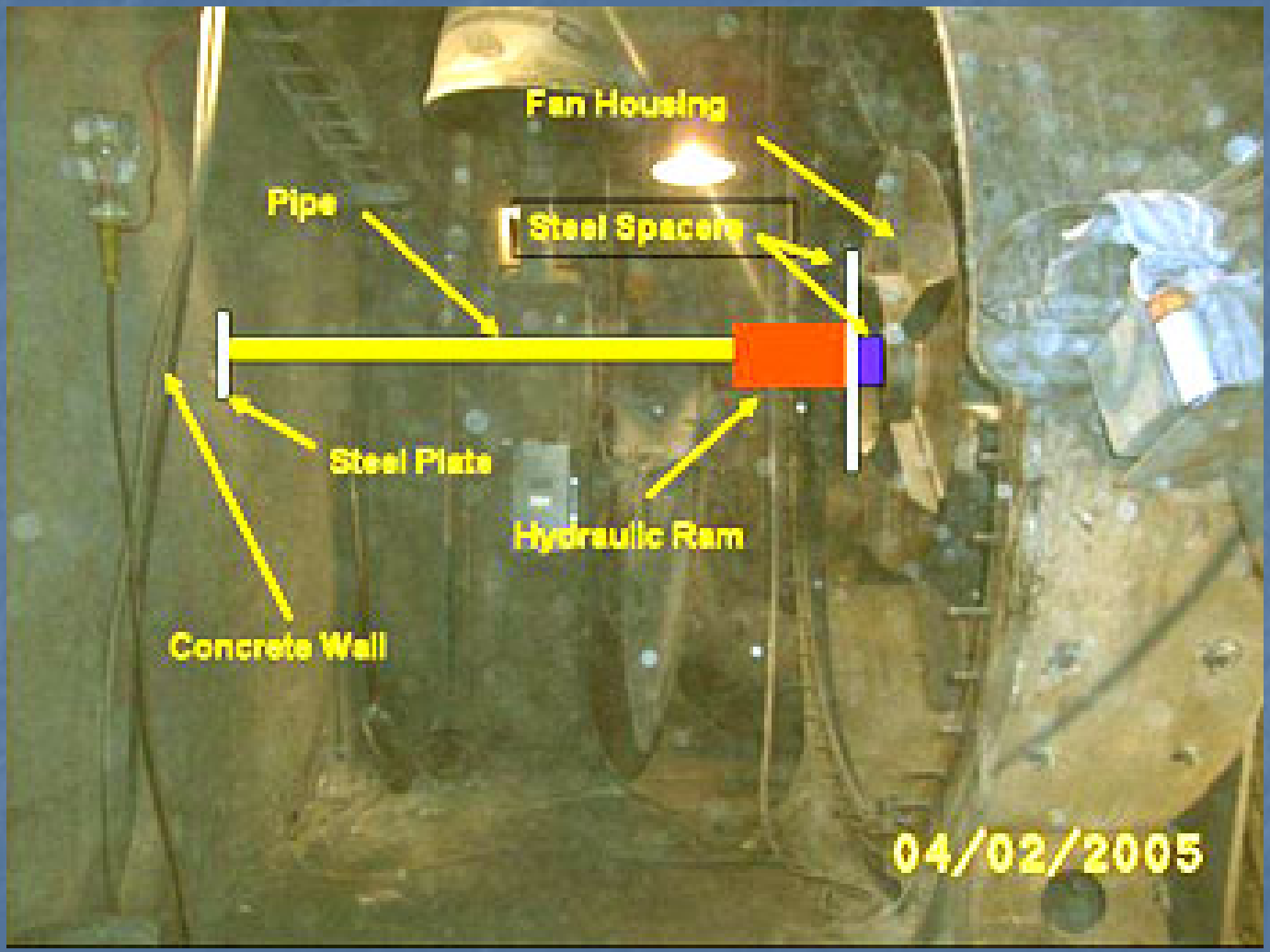
MNM Fatal 2005-07

- Machinery
- April 1, 2005 (Virginia)
- Lime Operation
- Mechanic
- 50 years old
- 30 years experience

Overview

- The victim and a co-worker were attempting to install a fan housing on a coal mill. They had positioned a steel pipe against a concrete wall to support an electrically-powered, hydraulic ram that was utilized to push the housing into position. During this process, the pipe dislodged and struck the victim.


Fan Housing
Pipe
Steel Spacers
Steel Plate
Hydraulic Ram
Concrete Wall
04/02/2005

Why Did Accident Occur?

- The accident was caused by the failure to evaluate the work procedures, identify all possible hazards, and establish safe procedures to install the fan housing. The steel pipe was used beyond the designed capacity intended because the force applied bent the pipe, causing it to kick out.

Causal Factors

- Policies, standards, and controls were inadequate. The company had not developed safe work procedures to support the porta-power and hydraulic ram in conjunction with a steel pipe and combination of spacers. The task could not be performed safely because the pressure applied by the ram exceeded the designed capacity of the pipe.

- None of the components were assembled or supported on a stable base. Miners were required to manually support the components during the installation process.

Best Practices

- Conduct a Risk Assessment before beginning a task, to evaluate the work procedures, identify all possible hazards, and ensure steps are taken to safely perform the task.
- Establish policies that ensure procedures are developed and followed to safely complete repair tasks.
- Ensure the proper equipment is utilized so that equipment components are blocked to prevent hazardous movement.
- Ensure that miners are not positioned in areas where they are exposed to hazards resulting from a sudden release of energy.